

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Examination and allowance of pending claims are respectfully requested.  
Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended. Claims 3, 12, and 16 have been cancelled.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 3, 12 and 16 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable over the prior art cited if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended base Claims 1, 8, and 15 to include limitations found in Claims 3, 12, and 16, respectively thereby rendering the newly amended base Claims 1, 8, and 15 allowable over the prior art, as indicated by the Examiner.

Applicants respectfully request that the pending Claims 1, 5-10, 14, 15, and 17 be rendered allowable and the rejection be removed.

**CONCLUSION**

Based upon the above amendments, remarks, and papers of records, applicant believes the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely **Notice of Allowance** be issued in this case.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely. Should applicant be in error, applicant respectfully requests that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Reply timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Joanne N. Pappas at 978-635-2289

Respectfully submitted,



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